

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01633 041151Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /053 W

----- 074825

R 040830Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5048

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1633

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV MARR IC

SUBJECT: ANNUAL STUDENT COMMEMORATION OF ICELAND'S DECEMBER
FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY

1. SUMMARY: DURING TRADITIONAL ANNUAL STUDENT DECEMBER FIRST
CELEBRATION HELD IN UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM REYKJAVIK, SMALL GROUP
OF STUDENTS STAGED FLAG-RAISING INCIDENT AT KEFLAVIK BASE TO
COINCIDE WITH CEREMONY. OBSERVANCES WERE GENERALLY LOW-KEY
AND DID NOT GENERATE ANTI-US/IDF DEMONSTRATIONS THAT HAVE MARKED
PREVIOUS COMMEMORATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND STUDENTS HELD TRADITIONAL ANNUAL
CEREMONY CELEBRATING 1918 ATTAINMENT OF ICELAND'S SELF-GOVERNMENT
IN UNIVERSITY THEATER DECEMBER 1. THEME, "ICELANDIC LEGEND AND
REALITY," PRODUCED VERBAL ATTACKS ON MOST SACRED OF ICELANDIC
COWS, INCLUDING SAGAS, EARLY SETTLERS, PATRIOTISM, AND 1974
OBSERVANCE OF 1100 YEARS OF SETTLEMENT. LEFTIST STUDENT ORGANI-
ZATION AT UNIVERSITY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROGRAM, HAVING EARLIER
BEEN ELECTED TO TASK OVER COUNTERPART RIGHT-CENTER GROUP. AS
ALWAYS, PROGRAM EMPHASIZED INDEPENDENCE, AND, AS USUAL WHEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 REYKJA 01633 041151Z

LEFTISTS CONDUCT OBSERVANCES, THERE WERE ALLEGATIONS OF LOSS OF

INDEPENDENCE DUE TO US "OCCUPATION" OF ICELAND.

3. IN LIEU OF ANTI-US, ANTI-IDF DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED PAST DECEMBER 1 OBSERVANCES, GROUP OF FIVE ICELANDIC STUDENTS PRECIPITATED FLAG-RAISING INCIDENT AT US-MANNED NATO BASE IN PUBLICITY SEEKING GESTURE. YOUTHS RAISED "ANTI-OCCUPATION" AND RED BANNERS ON MAIN BASE FLAG STAFFS BUT WERE THWARTED IN EVIDENT ATTEMPT TO ALSO LOWER US AND NATO FLAG SINCE THESE WERE NOT FLYING DUE TO STRONG WINDS. THIS FACT LED TO SOME SUBSEQUENT EMBARRASSMENT FOR PROTESTERS, WHEN SPEAKER AT AUDITORIUM CEREMONIES DELIVERED PRE-PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT OVER LIVE RADIO BROADCAST OF EVENTS TO EFFECT THAT "COLLEAGUES ARE EVEN NOW BEING RELEASED BY US MILITARY AFTER HAVING LOWERED US AND NATO FLAGS..." IN FACT, AFTER FLAG RAISING -- BUT NO LOWERING -- PERPETRATORS WERE DETAINED BRIEFLY BY US NAVAL STATION DUTY OFFICER PENDING ARRIVAL OF ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES, WHO QUESTIONED AND THEN RELEASED GROUP. INCIDENT WAS LONG OVER AT TIME OF SUPPOSED SIMULTANEOUS RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT AT AUDITORIUM. IRVING

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, STUDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA01633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740351-0769
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741261/aaaabzzz.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANNUAL STUDENT COMMEMORATION OF ICELAND'S DECEMBER FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY
TAGS: PDEV, MARR, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005